

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 130535
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DRAFTED BY AF/S:RJTIERNEY:BB
APPROVED BY S/THE SECRETARY
S/S-O: SGOLDSMITH
AF/S:DWKEOGH
AF:TWSEELYE

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O 071319Z JUN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 130535

EXDIS - FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, RH

SUBJECT: MESSAGE FOR COMMONWEALTH SYG SONNY RAMPHAL ON
RHODESIA

REF: A) LONDON 9301; B) LONDON 9059

1. PLEASE CONVEY AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY FOLLOWING POINTS
ON BEHALF OF THE SECRETARY IN REPLY TO MESSAGES FROM SONNY
RAMPHAL CONTAINED REFTELS.

2. QUOTE WE APPRECIATE YOUR KIND OFFER TO RELAY SPECIFIC
POINTS ON RHODESIA WHICH WE MIGHT WISH TO CONVEY TO
AFRICAN LEADERS DURING THE COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE. THE
SECRETARY ALSO WANTS TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR MESSAGE OF JUNE
1 CONCERNING THE RHODESIAN INCURSION INTO MOZAMBIQUE. WE
SHARED YOUR DEEP CONCERN ABOUT THAT DEVELOPMENT. WE HAVE
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MADE OUR CONCERN KNOWN IN NO UNCERTAIN TERMS TO THE
RHODESIANS. INCIDENTS SUCH AS THIS DO SEVERE DAMAGE
TO THE CURRENT SETTLEMENT EFFORTS, INVITE FOREIGN INTER-
VENTION AND ADD TO THE URGENCY OF FINDING A RAPID SOLUTION
TO THE RHODESIAN PROBLEM BEFORE MORE LIVES ARE LOST.

3. WE ARE PLEASED THAT ALL THE PARTIES CONCERNED HAVE

ACCEPTED THE BASIC METHOD BEHIND THE UNITED STATES' JOINT

EFFORT WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM TO PROCEED WITH NEGOTIATIONS ON THE CONSTITUTIONAL FUTURE OF RHODESIA. AS WE CONTINUE OUR CONSULTATIONS WE LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIVING SPECIFIC IDEAS REGARDING THE ISSUES WHICH ARE BEING DISCUSSED. WHEN MR. GRAHAM RETURNS TO SOUTHERN AFRICA AROUND THE END OF THIS MONTH, THE UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE WILL AGAIN BE WORKING CLOSELY WITH HIM AS THE NEGOTIATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS WITH CONCERNED PARTIES CONTINUE. AS THE FIRST ROUND OF CONSULTATIONS PROGRESSED, WE WERE DEEPLY IMPRESSED WITH THE DEDICATION AND CONCERN OF THE UNITED KINGDOM IN FINDING AN ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM.

4. IN OUR VIEW, WHAT IS MOST NEEDED IN THIS ENTIRE PROCESS IS A REASONABLE ATTITUDE AND A WILLINGNESS TO COMPROMISE ON NONCRITICAL ISSUES. BECAUSE YOU MAINTAIN SUCH CLOSE CONTACTS WITH SO MANY OF THE KEY LEADERS, YOU CAN PROVIDE AN IMPORTANT AND NECESSARY ELEMENT IF A PEACEFUL SOLUTION IS TO BE ACHIEVED. THAT IS TO ENCOURAGE AN ATTITUDE OF MODERATION AND RESTRAINT IN THE SITUATION. THE ESSENTIAL QUESTION REMAINS HOW TO SATISFY THE DEMANDS OF THE NATIONALIST LEADERS FOR IMMEDIATE MAJORITY RULE WHILE, AT THE SAME TIME, INSTILLING CONFIDENCE IN THE WHITES SO THAT THERE CAN BE A REASONABLY SMOOTH TRANSITION TO AN INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE.

5. BEYOND THE PERSONAL ROLE YOU HAVE PLAYED, THE COMMONWEALTH CAN ALSO BE VERY IMPORTANT IN THIS EFFORT, NOT ONLY

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IN THE TRANSITION PERIOD BUT POSSIBLY IN THE POST-INDEPENDENCE PERIOD AS WELL. AS THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA EVOLVES, WE WANT TO STAY IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH YOU, TO PROVIDE MUTUAL ASSISTANCE IN ORDER THAT THE GOAL WHICH WE SEEK, A TRULY FREE AND INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE, CAN BE ACHIEVED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. UNQUOTE VANCE

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